

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /160 W  
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R 021503Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9510

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LIMA 2531

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PE, FR

SUBJECT: VELASCO COMMENTS ON DOMESTIC ISSUES AND  
RELATIONS WITH FRANCE

REF: LIMA 5312, JULY 25, 1973

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCE ON MARCH 28 INCLUDED QUESTIONS ON TWO EXILED LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS, CHANGES OF PERSONNEL IN THE STATE ECONOMIC SECTOR, PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE WORKERS CONFEDERATION, FEMALE CONSCRIPTION, PUBLIC MEDICAL CARE, VELASCO'S CONTINUENCE IN PRESIDENCY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND LAW, AND RESTORATION OF RELATIONS WITH FRANCE. VELASCO'S COMMENTS ON PERU-CHILE RELATIONS IN LIMA 2488.

2. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE RETURN OF EXILED PERUVIAN INTELLECTUALS JULIO COTLER AND ANIBAL QUIJANO (SEE LIMA A-21) VELASCO SAID THAT REVOLUTION IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE ITS COURSE BECAUSE TWO INTELLECTUALS DISAGREE WITH IT. ONLY CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM IS ACCEPTABLE AND COTLER AND QUIJANO WENT TOO FAR. NEVERTHELESS, VELASCO SAID HE PERSONALLY DOES NOT OPPOSE THEIR RETURN.  
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3. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED TO QUESTION ABOUT RUMORED UPCOMING SHIFTS IN KEY CIVILIAN ECONOMIC PERSONNEL. ECONOMIC POLICY OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE IS SET BY REVOLUTION, HE SAID, AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL NAMED TO HEAD STATE BANKS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES MERELY EXECUTE POLICY -- THEY DO NOT FORMULATE IT. HENCE CHANGE OF DIRECTORS DOES NOT SIGNAL CHANGE IN POLICY.

4. ASKED TO COMMENT ON PRO-MOSCOW, COMMUNIST CGTP (CONFEDERACION GENERAL DE TRABAJADORES DEL PERU) PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE WORKERS CONFEDERATION (SEE LIMA 1659), VELASCO SAID THAT NOT ALL WORKERS THINK THE SAME AND PURSUE SIMILAR OBJECTIVES, UNITY WILL EMERGE ON ITS OWN, SAID VELASCO.

5. PERU WILL ESTABLISH SYSTEM OF OBLIGATORY MILITARY SERVICE FOR WOMEN, VELASCO SAID.

6. REFERRING TO PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY TO MEDICAL ATTENTION, PRESIDENT LAMENTED THAT GOOD HEALTH IS LUXURY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS PLANS TO BRING MEDICINE, SURGERY, AND NEW TECHNIQUES WITHIN REACH OF POOR, BUT MOVES SLOWLY TOWARD ITS GOALS IN THIS FIELD DUE TO LACK OF RESOURCES.

7. ASKED WHEN HE WILL STEP DOWN, VELASCO REPLIED THAT MUCH STILL NEEDS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AND HE WILL STAY AS LONG AS HE FEELS THE STRENGTH TO CONTINUE.

8. REMARKING ON COMMENTS LAST WEEK BY SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT CONCERNING NEED FOR LAW TO BE IN ACCORD WITH REVOLUTIONARY OBJECTIVES, VELASCO ASSERTED THAT LAW IN PAST WAS USED AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR EXPLOITING POOR. LAWS WHICH DO NOT ADVANCE JUSTICE MUST BE CHANGED, AS SHOULD TEACHING OF LAW, SO THAT UNIVERSITIES FASHION PROFESSIONALS COMMITTED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE.

9. A REPORTER ASSERTED THAT A FRECH GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN STATED THAT RELATIONS WITH PERU COULD BE REESTABLISHED SOON. VELASCO REPLIED THAT PERU BROKE RELATIONS ON AN ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE, BUT IF FRANCE TAKES APPROPRIATE STEPS TOWARD UNCLASSIFIED

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MORE PROPITIOUS CLIMATE FOR RENEWING RELATIONS, PERU WILL BE RECEPTIVE. (NOTE: WHILE AMBASSADORS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN, THERE HAS BEEN NO INTERRUPTION IN GOP-GOF CONSULAR, CULTURAL AND COMM ER- CIAL RELATIONS.)  
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